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Engineers and Planners

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SR-12 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SET TO BEGIN

GARFIELD COUNTY – The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration are commencing an environmental assessment for SR-12, between Escalante and Boulder, to identify, document and recommend improvements. The entire SR-12 corridor has been the subject of several previous studies conducted by UDOT and the Five County Association of Governments. This environmental assessment will focus on the specific needs and challenges of a 28-mile section of SR-12 between milepost 60 and milepost 88. This environmental assessment will be prepared over the next three years.

Environmental assessments take into consideration prior studies, existing and future conditions, stakeholder and agency input, and the environmental context to determine the environmental impacts of proposed alternatives. The steps involved in an environmental assessment are: 1) Develop a Purpose and Need Statement to establish the project intent, 2) Develop alternatives, including no-build, and 3) Analyze the impacts of each alternative.

The goals of the current environmental assessment are to:

- Balance the needs of the different modes of transportation on SR-12
- Provide for safety needs while preserving human and natural resources
- Define solutions that are consistent with the natural environment

The project has been divided into two phases to provide flexibility in the decision-making process.

Phase I

During this phase, data for the project area will be collected from existing documents, plans, studies, databases, and resource agencies. Once collected, the information will be consolidated and used to develop a Purpose and Need Statement that determines the most important and critical areas and features within the project parameters. This phase is estimated to be completed in the summer of 2005.

Phase II

This phase includes a detailed alternative analysis (alternatives include proposed safety options/improvements for SR-12), alternative evaluations, including those found in previous studies, and alternative selection. Impacts for each alternative will then be

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studied and documented in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Phase II is estimated to be completed in 2007.

Previous studies have determined that due to bicycle and pedestrian traffic, narrow or lack of shoulders, and the need for passing areas / pull outs, improvements to SR-12 need to be evaluated, but that any improvements should preserve the corridor's character.

For more information regarding the SR-12 Environmental Assessment,
please visit www.udot.utah.gov/sr-12.

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SR-12 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES TO BE HELD

Garfield County - The SR-12 Environmental Assessment, which extends from Escalante to Boulder, is underway and the project team will be holding two open houses for the public in mid-October.

This will be an opportunity for the community and other interested parties to ask questions and give comments about the project. This will also be a chance to give the project team input on the issues and help brainstorm possible solutions for the corridor.

The open houses will be as follows:

Boulder Public Open House

When: October 18, 2004, from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Where: Boulder Town Hall
351 North 100 East
Boulder, Utah

Escalante Public Open House

When: October 19, 2004, from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Where: Escalante High School
70 North 1 West
Escalante, Utah

For more information about the SR-12 Environmental Assessment, please visit the project web site at www.udot.utah.gov/sr-12/.

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SR-12 Environmental Assessment Public Open Houses to Be Held

The SR-12 Environmental Assessment is underway. The project limits extend from Escalante to Boulder. The project team will be holding two open houses for the public in mid-October. This will be an opportunity for the community and other interested parties to ask questions and give comments about the project. This will also be a chance to give the project team input on the issues and help brainstorm possible solutions for the corridor.



For complete details regarding the open houses, see the following:

Boulder Public Open House

When: October 18, 2004, from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Where: Boulder Town Hall
351 North 100 East
Boulder, Utah

Escalante Public Open House

When: October 19, 2004, from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Where: Escalante High School
70 North 1 West
Escalante, Utah



For more information regarding the SR-12
Environmental Assessment, please visit:

www.udot.utah.gov/sr-12

Or contact the public involvement team at:

(801) 262-8700
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SR-12 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
CONTEXT SENSITIVE COMMITTEE FORMED AND FIRST MEETING HELD

Garfield County - The Context Sensitive Committee (CSC) for the SR-12 Environmental Assessment has been formed and the first meeting has been held. Based on previous Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) and other agency studies along SR-12, UDOT is conducting an Environmental Assessment (EA) along SR-12 from Escalante to Boulder. The purpose of this EA is to review specific transportation needs in the project area, assess the potential impacts, and determine if an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is needed. During the early planning stages of this assessment, UDOT has developed a committee of twelve individuals each representing a different organization and point of view of the SR-12 corridor.

The CSC held its first meeting on February 23, 2005, in Escalante, Utah. The committee, which includes representatives from the ranching community, bicycling community, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Wild Utah Project, Garfield County School District, Garfield County Travel Council, Boulder Town, Escalante City, Escalante/Boulder Chamber of Commerce, Utah Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and the US Bureau of Land Management, has been formed to assist the project team in defining the context and setting of SR-12 and determining the needs of the corridor.

In order to ensure all interested communities and parties are kept informed of project developments the project team asked each committee member to communicate back and forth between the project team and the communities that they represent. This will make certain that an open dialogue between the project team and all interested parties is maintained. A summary of the topics discussed at the first CSC meeting will be posted on the project web site at www.udot.utah.gov/sr-12.

In addition to the comments provided by the members of the CSC, the project team has received numerous comments from the general public to date. All comments that have been received have been reviewed and are being taken into consideration.

The SR-12 Project Team will conduct the next Context Sensitive Committee meeting in April. Prior to that meeting, open houses will be held for the general public to attend, meet the project team, and learn what was discussed at the first CSC meeting and what has been done on the SR-12 project to date. Exact times and locations for the upcoming open houses will be forthcoming.

For more information about the SR-12 Environmental Assessment, please visit the project web site at www.udot.utah.gov/sr-12.

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March 17, 2005
For Immediate Release

STUDY TEAM COMBINES TO REVIEW STATE ROUTE 12

RICHFIELD, UT – The Utah Department of Transportation has called together a diverse committee of organizations and individuals to examine state Route 12 (S.R. 12) and discuss potential improvements to the roadway with an emphasis on improving safety while preserving its natural and built environment.

Dubbed the “Context Sensitive Committee” or “CSC,” members have begun to define concerns that might surround roadway construction activities between Escalante and Boulder in the coming decade. Based on previous studies of S.R. 12, UDOT is furthering its review of specific transportation needs in the project area, assessing potential impacts, and determining if an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or an Environmental Assessment is needed.

At this early planning stage, UDOT has formed the CSC committee of twelve individuals from different organizations and diverse points of view to help UDOT define the context and setting of S.R. 12 and determine the needs of the corridor.

Organizations represented on the committee include the local ranching community, bicycling community, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Wild Utah Project, Garfield County School District, Garfield County Travel Council, Boulder Town, Escalante City, Escalante/Boulder Chamber of Commerce, Utah Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

The CSC met February 23, 2005, in Escalante, Utah and members were encouraged to open channels of communication between the project team and the communities they represent. Open dialogue between the project team and all interested parties was emphasized as vital in this study process. A summary of the topics discussed at the first CSC meeting will be posted on the project web site at www.udot.utah.gov/sr-12

In addition to the comments provided by the members of the CSC, the project team has received numerous comments from the general public. Those comments are welcome and will be considered in the overall study.

The S.R. 12 Project Team and CSC will next meet in April after comments from the general public are sought at two open houses. The open houses will be held on April 20 in Escalante from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Escalante High School and in Boulder from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Boulder Town Hall.

For more information about the SR-12 Environmental Assessment, please visit the project web site at www.udot.utah.gov/sr-12/.

May 13, 2005
For Immediate Release

Comments Still Welcome on SR-12 Study

ESCALANTE, UTAH – The Utah Department of Transportation sponsored two open houses on April 20th to take comment on possible roadway improvements to State Route 12 (SR 12) between Escalante and Boulder and encourages anyone interested in the roadway to submit additional comments by the end of May.

The April 20th open houses allowed the general public to meet with UDOT representatives and project team members to discuss existing safety and roadway issues or concerns and identify possible solutions. Following the public open houses, a Context Sensitive Committee also met with UDOT and the project team to identify and discuss project needs and concerns and brainstorm possible solutions. The Committee will meet again in June.

An electronic comment form is available on the project web site at www.udot.utah.gov/sr-12, or comments can be submitted to H.W. Lochner, Inc, 310 East 4500 South, Suite 600, Salt Lake City, Utah 84107. Comments will be accepted through August, but will be of most value if submitted in May.

Project mapping with information gleaned from the meetings and open houses is also available on the project web site.

As the S.R. 12 project continues to move forward, the project team will continue working on the following:

- Developing alternatives
- Completing a “Purpose and Need Statement” for an environmental report
- Determining the impacts of various project alternatives
- Preparing for Phase II of the environmental examination.

Phase II of the environmental report will begin in September 2005 with additional public open houses in August. Future open houses will give the public an opportunity to comment on proposed alternatives and the project team’s findings from Phase I.

For more information on the SR 12 study, please visit the project web site at www.udot.utah.gov/sr-12/.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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S.R. 12 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
OPEN HOUSES HELD

Garfield County - The Utah Department of Transportation, along with members of the project team, held two open houses on April 20th in Escalante and Boulder regarding State Route 12 (S.R. 12), between Escalante and Boulder. The open houses allowed the general public to meet with UDOT representatives and project team members to discuss existing safety and roadway issues and to identify possible solutions.

Attendees were asked to identify specific areas of concern along the corridor on large project maps that were provided. The project team also asked the public to provide ideas they have for possible solutions to those concerns.

The Context Sensitive Committee held its second meeting on April 21st. Committee members identified project needs and concerns and brainstormed possible solutions. The S.R. 12 project team will conduct the next Context Sensitive Committee meeting in June.

Information presented to the Context Sensitive Committee and to the general public is available on the project Web site at www.udot.utah.gov/sr-12. In addition, a new comment form is available on the Web site as well as project mapping showing the existing conditions of S.R. 12.

As the S.R. 12 project continues to move forward, the project team will continue working on the following:

- Developing alternatives
- Completing the Purpose and Need Statement
- Determining the impacts of the project
- Preparing for Phase II of the study.

Phase II is scheduled to commence in September 2005 and will kickoff with additional public open houses in August. The future open houses will give the public an opportunity to comment on proposed alternatives and the project team's findings from Phase I.

For more information about the SR-12 Environmental Assessment, please visit the project web site at www.udot.utah.gov/sr-12/.

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June 17, 2005

For Immediate Release

S.R. 12 Context Sensitive Committee Held Meeting #3

ESCALANTE, UTAH – Members of the S.R. 12 Context Sensitive Committee met with UDOT and the project team on June 1, 2005, in Escalante, Utah, to identify possible solutions and brainstorm alternatives for Highway 12 between Escalante and Boulder. The Committee will meet again in August.

The presentation given to the Committee members is available on the project Web site at www.udot.utah.gov/sr-12. A summary of Committee meeting #2 is now available on the project Web site and the summary from meeting #3 will be available online by the end of June.

As the S.R. 12 project continues to move forward, the project team will continue working on the following:

- Completing a “Purpose and Need Statement” for an environmental report
- Developing alternatives
- Preparing for Phase II of the environmental examination
- Determining the impacts of various project alternatives

Phase II of the environmental report will begin in September 2005. The fourth Context Sensitive Committee meeting, as well as additional public open houses, will be held in August. Future open houses will give the public an opportunity to comment on possible alternatives and the project team’s findings from Phase I.

For more information on the S.R. 12 study, please visit the project web site at www.udot.utah.gov/sr-12.

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